

CLAIMANTS WANT TWO MILLIARDS

Heirs of the Pioneer Mail Carrier of the Plains Press for Payment.

Major Chorpennig Found Paths Over a Trackless Waste, but Got No Money.

Justice of His Claim Recognized by Congress, but Congressmen Wanted Shares.

HE DIED IN A NEW YORK HOSPITAL.

Story of the Work and the Old Man's Fruitless Effort to Secure Compensation Told by His Son, Who is Struggling with Congress.

Major George Chorpennig died in comparative poverty in the New York Hospital two years ago. To his children he left the prosecution of a claim against the Government for nearly \$2,000,000, and his son, George Chorpennig, of No. 103 Clinton street, Brooklyn, is now trying to secure the money.

The work was carrying the United States mails for more than eleven years from Salt Lake City to Sacramento and back, under three contracts with the Government, which extended from May 1, 1851, to June 30, 1862. During all that time Mr. Chorpennig, or the men in his employ, made regular trips across the mountains and over the Indian-infested plains. In these trips many lives were lost and hundreds of horses and mules were killed by the Indians, yet for the work done Mr. Chorpennig was never paid.

It was in one of his stages, driven by Hank Monk, that Horace Greeley made the trip which Mark Twain made famous.

On May 1, 1851, Mr. Chorpennig left Sacramento with his first bag of mail. Before that all intercourse with the coast had been by boat around Cape Horn, and Mr. Chorpennig's attempt was a desperate one, as it necessitated his finding his way through an unknown country for a distance of nearly 800 miles. Mr. Chorpennig yesterday told the story of his father's work.

THE FIRST REGULAR ROUTES.

"After securing the contract with the Government," said Mr. Chorpennig, "my father set to work to establish a regular route. He had found a way from Salt Lake City to Placerville, Cal., and by this, during the summer, the mail was regularly carried. From the sum paid him it was necessary, of course, to pay the men who helped him, the route, establish way stations and maintain them, with the horses and helpers. This route, which was to the north of Salt Lake, was all right in summer, but in winter it was impracticable, and a southern route was chosen. From Salt Lake to San Francisco, the route was picked out, the mail was put upon boats and carried to San Francisco. All this was done at my father's expense, but the Government agreed to allow him extra pay."

"He put in a claim for the extra pay, but it was not until March 3, 1857, ordered that it be paid."

"The route was carried by the Government to establish a line between Salt Lake City and Placerville, by which the mail should be carried in four-horse coaches. This necessitated the selection of an entirely new route, as the others were only practical for horses. One was finally picked out, the road established and stations built every twenty miles. The building of these stations and the purchase of the coaches, horses and mules cost more than \$200,000, all of which was borne by my father."

FAST WORK FOR 1858.

"It was the first stage line ever built across the continent, and by it, in 1858, President Buchanan's message was carried from Washington to Sacramento in seventeen days, eight and one-half hours. This quick work opened the eyes of the Post office authorities and the mail was carried by father, by which he was to receive a weekly mail—the old 'pony express' system. He was to be paid \$100,000 a year for this and he maintained it from July 1, 1858, to June 30, 1862."

"After a year of this, Mr. Brown, who represented the Government in the contract, died, and Mr. Holt, who succeeded him, ordered the weekly service reduced to a trip every two weeks and cut the pay for the route to \$80,000. He also ordered the cost of service, and on this account, father kept up the weekly service. At last Mr. Holt annulled the contract and ordered the work stopped."

"Father at once went to Washington to see about the matter. He had invested his whole fortune in the route, and if the Government did not pay him for the work he would be penniless. While he was in Washington Ben Holladay seized the stage plan and began to push his thing, and ran it for himself. Father was still pushing his claim when the war broke out, and once organized the first regiment raised for the Union in Maryland and was appointed to command it by President Lincoln."

"In 1870 he began to push his claim, and July 15 of that year Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the Postmaster-General to investigate and report on the claim under the act passed March 3, 1857, and on the terms of the contract held by my father. In this resolution it was said that the claim should be referred solely to the committee."

"At that time the claim was for \$900,000. Postmaster General J. A. J. Creswell, who investigated the matter, and after five months' delay reported that the Government owed father \$443,010.60."

THE STRIKE OF TWO CONGRESSMEN.

"While this was going on in the auditor's office two influential men, one a United States Senator and the other a member of Congress, demanded part of the money from father. He refused to give them any, and they threatened to sue him. In the resolution in which the act of 1870 was revoked."

"By that time father's property was practically gone and he had no money to push the claim. That it would be eventually paid he had no doubt, and often said that the money was good as gold in the bank, and was drawing interest for himself or his children."

"He died poor, and after his life's work for the country had nothing but the claim which he could not collect. For seven years he personally carried the mail on his back across the mountains and over the country, and through a territory which he was the first white man to visit."

"At one time when he was about to leave Salt Lake City one of his trips the Indians were so numerous and hostile that Brigham Young urged him to give up the trip, saying it was suicide to try it. He got through, but was chased for three days by the Indians. When he reached Sacramento, California, who was said to have been killed by the Indians, he was always said that the Indians would never have attacked the settlers had not the latter first attacked them."

Miss Lawrence Entertains School Friends.

Miss Catherine M. Lawrence, of No. 59 West Sixty-third street, gave a reception Friday evening to a number of her school friends, and was assisted in receiving her guests by her cousin, Miss Anna P. Van Buren, and the Misses Emily Simpson, Grace Quimby and Grace Merrill.

GREATER NEW YORK SURE.

Attitude of Senator Lexow Thought to Give Assurance That the Consolidation Bill Will Pass.

The attitude of Chairman Clarence Lexow, of the joint sub-committee of the Senate and House Committees on Cities, in the two days' hearing in Brooklyn for and against the Greene bill, leaves little doubt that the Greater New York is assured and that the necessary legislation will be enacted. The committee will hold further hearings in this city, and may possibly devote another day to the Brooklynites.

The programme for bringing about the consolidation of the cities and towns of the Greater New York is complete and will be carried out. The Greene bill provides for the consolidation to take effect on January 1, 1898. The only stipulation being that an equal ratio of taxation shall prevail. The first of these bills will probably pass in the course of the next thirty days. This will be the Metropolitan Police bill, which is to wipe out the police departments of the two cities and provide for a department in their stead. The appointment of the six commissioners provided for would be in the Governor's hands. The Mayors of New York and Brooklyn would be on it, as well as one of the present Police Commissioners of either city. Brooklyn has only one Police Commissioner, so Mr. Welles would be the man. In this city President Roosevelt stands no chance of appointment. Colonel Grant is believed to be the man to be selected.

For the other two places on the commission it is thought that one Democrat and one Republican will be chosen. Gossip has it that Edward Lauterbach is to be one of them. Ex-Chief Thomas Byrnes is also talked for possible chief of the consolidated force.

VETERANS LAID TO REST.

Funeral Services of General Fowler and Two Other Soldiers in Brooklyn.

Three brave Union soldiers were buried in Brooklyn yesterday. General Edward B.

Fowler, the most distinguished of the trio, laid in state at the City Hall until 2 o'clock, when his body was taken to Simpson M. E. Church, on Clermont avenue. The church was filled with Grand Army members of Rankin Post, the Royal Legion, the Army of the Potomac, Fourteenth Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.; Veterans of the Fourteenth Regiment, and Lexington Lodge, No. 310, F. and A. M. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. O. Wilson, also a veteran. He paid a glowing tribute to the departed hero, whom he personified as an ideal citizen, an ideal soldier and an ideal husband.

The funeral cortege started for Greenwood cemetery at 3:30. The casket was enveloped in an American flag and floral tributes. General Benjamin F. Butler, General Daniel Butterfield, General James Jourdan, General Stewart L. Woodford, General Edward L. Mollenau and the other pall bearers went to the grave.

James Cowan, one of the six Cowan brothers who served all through the war and died from wounds received in battle, was buried from his late home, No. 241 Navy street. James H. Perry Post, No. 80, G. A. R., of which Mr. Cowan was an old member, escorted the remains to the Holy Cross cemetery.

John Kenney, of Odell Post, No. 433, G. A. R., a brave Union soldier, was buried from his late residence, No. 475a Dean street, yesterday afternoon.

ANTI-SALOON WAR IN OHIO.

Liquor Men Waging a Desperate Battle to Defeat the New Local Option Bill.

Springfield, O., Jan. 19.—The big battle in the State between the saloon and the anti-saloon forces over the pending Haskell bill is now at its height. The principal section of the bill provides for the extension of the local option plan of dealing with the liquor traffic in towns and cities and townships.

The State elections in 1895, which were held on the day of the passage of the bill, will reduce the number of saloons ninety per cent, and at the same time will decrease the revenue of the State. The liquor men are not sufficient to meet expenditures, as pointed out by Governor Bushnell in his inaugural address. The State elections in the last two years have been conducted with a view to sending men to the Legislature who would vote for the Haskell bill. In almost every local political fight the power of the anti-saloon league has been felt. The leaders of the organization confidently claim that they have a safe majority in both the House and Senate and that the bill will pass without a falling off of support. The liquor men, however, are not so sanguine. They hope in the fact that the passage of the bill would increase the deficit in the State revenue, already small. The anti-saloon league have been holding meetings in all the churches of a dozen towns every Sunday, and have been successful in securing The Rev. Howard H. Russell, State Superintendent, said here:

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HE ASKS FOR INVESTIGATION.

Mr. Randolph's Charges Against Teachers of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 19.—The investigation which has resulted in the admission that the convicts in the penitentiary are fed at a cost of less than 5 cents a day per man is likely to develop inquiry into the management of some of the other institutions of the State. Attention has been called to the deaf, dumb and blind institutions at Staunton, Va., by the investigation of the State eleemosynary institutions.

At a meeting yesterday morning of the Committee on Prison and Asylum of the House of Delegates, Chairman Hathaway stated that he had received several letters begging him to investigate the Staunton institution. One letter is from a man named Randolph, in Norfolk, who stated that he and his wife were both educated there. He makes serious charges of immorality against teachers in the institution and says that female pupils are ruined there. Mr. Randolph further says he is prepared to give testimony as to the facts, and that he will produce other witnesses.

The management of the institution say they never before heard of such charges and they court the most rigid investigation.

Get the best, Ubers's Tar, Balm and Honey, for coughs and colds; sold everywhere.

SPIRITON TELLS HIS SIDE.

Through His Brother He Avers That He Did Not Flirt with Mrs. Imbert.

Attacked from Behind After a Quarrel About Other Things and Was Too Weak to Resist.

KNOW HER BEFORE HER MARRIAGE.

Imbert Says It Is True That the Insult Was Not Recent, but That Spiriton Took Mrs. Imbert by the Shoulders

on Saturday.

The other side of the story, of why Alexander Imbert, the importer of antiques, of No. 35 West Thirty-first street, and his wife Jeanne, beat Raphael Spiriton, of No. 17 East Seventeenth street, with a cane, was told yesterday by the brother of the injured man, for Spiriton himself is still confined to bed in a dangerous condition. Imbert had said that his wife had been insulted by Spiriton.

The Spiritons are also importers of antiques, paintings, miniatures and works of art, carrying on business sometimes here, sometimes in Boston and making trips to Paris and other European cities three or four times a year. They say that when they met Imbert for the first time in this city eight years ago he was without means. He asked them to help him and they did by giving him works of art to sell on commission. As a salesman he was a success, but after a time something happened to break the thread of friendship.

Spiriton's physical health.

"My brother has been an invalid for more than two years, has in fact been a physical wreck. In Paris Mrs. Imbert was known under the name of Jeanne Morot, and the

was a poor man when I first met him and that he helped me out by giving me pictures to sell on commission."

"It is true that the name of my wife before I married her was Jeanne Morot. I am not going over my past life and saying there any reason why I should. It is enough that she is my wife now. I decline to say when or where I was married."

"It is true that my wife brought over from Paris with her last Sunday some articles for Spiriton, and that we called at his office. I did not know then that Raphael had been flirting with my wife. It was not of recent date, but when she was here last year and in Paris."

"Neither did I seek him out Friday night at his home to chastise him on that account. I went there to ask him some questions about stories he circulated about me. I did not mean to strike him then, for I would not kill a fly."

"The assault was not correct. I never raised a hand until he put out the gas and, seizing my wife by the shoulders, attempted to strike her. Then I came to my wife's rescue. I don't know whether she struck him or not. I suppose she did in defending herself. I know that he struck me and scratched my wife's face."

In the Jefferson Market Court yesterday morning Imbert and his wife were arraigned before City Magistrate Flannery, but on the application of Lawyer McClellan and the examination went over until January 31, as the injured man was unable to attend.

THE CALF HAD HYDROPHOBIA.

A Farmer Wounded by Its Teeth Is Now at Death's Door.

Kingwood, W. Va., Jan. 19.—The lower part of this county has been overrun with rabid dogs for several months. The disease was first communicated by a stray dog from the lower part of the State, where there was an epidemic of rabies early in the summer. Hogs, horses and cattle have been bitten, and farmers have been forced to kill much valuable stock.

A calf belonging to James Snider, living on a farm five miles from Newburg, began to act strangely about two weeks ago, and the owner and his son Frank, thinking the animal might have been bitten by a dog, placed it in a pen to await results. In handling the calf both Snider and his son were scratched on the hands by the calf's teeth, and although the wounds were viewed

with alarm at first, they were soon forgotten. The calf became violent on Thursday and was killed. On the same day Snider showed signs of hydrophobia, and the doctors pronounced his case hopeless. He is now under guard to prevent him from doing damage to his family. The son has not shown any indications of the disease thus far, but he has been sent to the Pasteur Institute for treatment.

HELD UP AT HIS OWN DOOR.

Heuter Was Knocked Down and Lost His Overcoat, and Two Arrests Followed.

Theodore Armtröder, twenty years old, of No. 127 First street, and Henry Kendall, twenty-six years old, who says he lives in the Y. M. C. A. rooms at Broadway and the Bowery, were arraigned in the Essex Market Police Court yesterday, charged with highway robbery.

Gustave Heuter, of No. 316 Sixth street, said he was standing in front of his door at 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning when he was attacked by three men, who knocked him into the basement entrance of the house, and stole his overcoat, worth \$28. He scrambled to his feet and gave chase, and his shouts attracted the attention of two policemen, who arrested two of the fugitives, but the man with the overcoat escaped. He positively identified Kendall, but could not swear that Armtröder was his associate. Kendall was held in \$1,000 bail and Armtröder was released from custody.

On Chicago's Victory.

Now that Chicago has won the fight over the location of the next National Democratic Convention, the wind will blow more lustily from the metropolis of the West. Albany Journal.

Our sympathies are with the prospective convention. Think of struggling through the hot days with a mighty vacuum in the market, with one's eyes and ears full of Chicago dirt, blown thither by Chicago's restless wind. Can't it be awful. Philadelphia Call.

The local influences will be much more favorable to intelligent action on the finances than St. Louis influences would have been. Chicago is a much more convenient point for the delegates, and if the convention was to be held in New York, undoubtedly Chicago was the best place for it. Albany Journal.

If, as seems likely, Chicago is going to spread itself over getting the convention, it may take in the whole State. Philadelphia Times.

It is true," he said, in reply, "that I

was a poor man when I first met him and that he helped me out by giving me pictures to sell on commission."

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MARY'S LOVE FOR CANDY.

Supposed to Have Brought Her Near Death's Door, but the Scalpel Saved Her.

An Operation That Has Marked a New Era in the Advance of Surgical Science.

SHE WAS TORMENTED BY AN ULCER.

Lost Her Last Thanksgiving Dinner, but is Now Doing Well and Getting Ready for the Next One.

Medical Opinion.

Mary Bowden, who is not quite seventeen years old, has gained a distinction quite unthought for on her part. She successfully passed through an operation that has heretofore proven fatal. It marks a new era in the advance of surgery. Friends were congratulating her yesterday at her home on the third floor of No. 604 West Thirty-fourth street.

Mary's father died six years ago, and the care of the family devolved upon the mother. There are now three girls in the family, of whom Mary is the oldest, and one boy, James, who is still older than her, and who contributes to the support of the home. Mary left school two years ago, and has since cared for the house during the day, when her mother was at work.

Mary had been ailing for some time. Her appetite was bad, and when she arose in the morning her stomach always caused her more or less distress. A little food would satisfy her, and no matter how little it always distressed her. She, however, was inordinately fond of sweets, and was satisfied with nothing more than a piece of cake for breakfast, provided she could get it.

She liked candy and ate it constantly. As her mother explained: "Mary has a sweet tooth, and when I'd go out I'd leave the pocketbook with her, and—well, she has a sweet tooth."

Whether the candy-eating habit was the cause of the result of her troubles, the doctors are unable to say. Dr. Edward M. Foote, of No. 68 West Fifty-fifth street, who attended her, was formerly house surgeon at the New York Hospital, and is a capable young practitioner. When Mary began seriously to sicken a week before Thanksgiving, the symptoms led him to the conclusion that she had a perforated ulcer in the stomach.

Her affliction was not a new one. There had been many sufferers from it, ninety-five per cent of whom died. The Bowdens began seriously to sicken a week before Thanksgiving, the symptoms led him to the conclusion that she had a perforated ulcer in the stomach.

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